

**REMARKS**

Claims 106-141 remain pending after entry of this amendment. Claims 142-159 were cancelled without prejudice herein. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment because it puts the case in condition for allowance by canceling the rejected claims, because the Examiner indicated that claims 106-141 were allowable, and those are the only claims that remain.

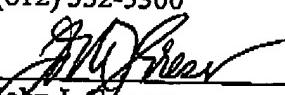
Claims 142-159 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with this rejection, claims 142-159 were cancelled herein. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: September 25, 2003

  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112  
JJG/AMN/Vh

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 26 2003

OFFICIAL